

The United States Semiquincentennial Commission.

With best wishes, I am,  
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4:15 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1617

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. YOUNG of Iowa) at 4 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

## FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY ACT

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4258) to promote the development of local strategies to coordinate use of assistance under sections 8 and 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 with public and private resources, to enable eligible families to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4258

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Family Self-Sufficiency Act".

### SEC. 2. FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 23 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437u) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking "public housing and"; and

(B) by striking "the certificate and voucher programs under section 8" and inserting "sections 8 and 9";

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

"(b) CONTINUATION OF PRIOR REQUIRED PROGRAMS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Each public housing agency that was required to administer a local Family Self-Sufficiency program on the date of enactment of the Family Self-Sufficiency Act, shall operate such local program for, at a minimum, the number of families the agency was required to serve on the date of enactment of such Act, subject only to the availability under appropriations Acts

of sufficient amounts for housing assistance and the requirements of paragraph (2).

"(2) REDUCTION.—The number of families for which a public housing agency is required to operate such local program under paragraph (1) shall be decreased by one for each family from any supported rental housing program administered by such agency that, after October 21, 1998, fulfills its obligations under the contract of participation.

"(3) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary shall not require a public housing agency to carry out a mandatory program for a period of time upon the request of the public housing agency and upon a determination by the Secretary that implementation is not feasible because of local circumstances, which may include—

"(A) lack of supportive services accessible to eligible families, which shall include insufficient availability of resources for programs under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.);

"(B) lack of funding for reasonable administrative costs;

"(C) lack of cooperation by other units of State or local government; or

"(D) any other circumstances that the Secretary may consider appropriate.";

(3) by striking subsection (i);

(4) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), and (h) as subsections (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), and (i) respectively;

(5) by inserting after subsection (b), as amended, the following:

"(c) ELIGIBILITY.—

"(1) ELIGIBLE FAMILIES.—A family is eligible to participate in a local Family Self-Sufficiency program under this section if—

"(A) at least 1 household member seeks to become and remain employed in suitable employment or to increase earnings; and

"(B) the household member receives direct assistance under section 8 or resides in a unit assisted under section 8 or 9.

"(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The following entities are eligible to administer a local Family Self-Sufficiency program under this section:

"(A) A public housing agency administering housing assistance to or on behalf of an eligible family under section 8 or 9.

"(B) The owner or sponsor of a multifamily property receiving project-based rental assistance under section 8, in accordance with the requirements under subsection (1).";

(6) in subsection (d), as so redesignated—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking "public housing agency" the first time it appears and inserting "eligible entity";

(ii) in the first sentence, by striking "each leaseholder receiving assistance under the certificate and voucher programs of the public housing agency under section 8 or residing in public housing administered by the agency" and inserting "a household member of an eligible family"; and

(iii) by striking the third sentence and inserting the following: "Housing assistance may not be terminated as a consequence of either successful completion of the contract of participation or failure to complete such contract. A contract of participation shall remain in effect until the participating family exits the Family Self-Sufficiency program upon successful graduation or expiration of the contract of participation, or for other good cause.";

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(I) in the first sentence—

(aa) by striking "A local program under this section" and inserting "An eligible entity";

(bb) by striking "provide" and inserting "coordinate"; and

(cc) by striking "to" and inserting "for"; and

(II) in the second sentence—

(aa) by striking "provided during" and inserting "coordinated for";

(bb) by striking "under section 8 or residing in public housing" and inserting "pursuant to section 8 or 9 and for the duration of the contract of participation"; and

(cc) by inserting ", but are not limited to" after "may include";

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by inserting "or attainment of a high school equivalency certificate" after "high school";

(iii) by striking subparagraph (G);

(iv) by redesignating subparagraphs (E), (F), and (J) as subparagraphs (F), (G), and (K) respectively;

(v) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

"(E) education in pursuit of a post-secondary degree or certification";

(vi) in subparagraph (H), by inserting "financial literacy, such as training in financial management, financial coaching, and asset building, and" after "training in";

(vii) in subparagraph (I), by striking "and" at the end; and

(viii) by inserting after subparagraph (I) the following:

"(J) homeownership education and assistance; and";

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in the first sentence, by inserting "the first recertification of income after" after "not later than 5 years after"; and

(ii) in the second sentence—

(I) by striking "public housing agency" and inserting "eligible entity"; and

(II) by striking "of the agency";

(D) by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

"(4) EMPLOYMENT.—The contract of participation shall require 1 household member of the participating family to seek and maintain suitable employment."; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

"(5) NONPARTICIPATION.—Assistance under section 8 or 9 for a family that elects not to participate in a Family Self-Sufficiency program shall not be delayed by reason of such election.";

(7) in subsection (e), as so redesignated—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "whose monthly adjusted income does not exceed 50 percent" and all that follows through the period at the end of the third sentence and inserting "shall be calculated under the rental provisions of section 3 or section 8(o), as applicable.";

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking the first sentence and inserting the following: "For each participating family, an amount equal to any increase in the amount of rent paid by the family in accordance with the provisions of section 3 or 8(o), as applicable, that is attributable to increases in earned income by the participating family, shall be placed in an interest-bearing escrow account established by the eligible entity on behalf of the participating family. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an eligible entity may use funds it controls under section 8 or 9 for purposes of making the escrow deposit for participating families assisted under, or residing in units assisted under, section 8 or 9, respectively, provided such funds are offset by the increase in the amount of rent paid by the participating family.";

(ii) by striking the second sentence and inserting the following: "All Family Self-Sufficiency programs administered under this section shall include an escrow account.";

(iii) in the fourth sentence, by striking "subsection (c)" and inserting "subsection (d)"; and

(iv) in the last sentence—